

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, claims 9, 12, 16 and 20 have been amended to recite that the fine particles cause no interaction with a hydrophilic functional group of the graft polymer.

These amendments are supported by the specification, for example, page 31, lines 5-9.

Claim 10 has been amended to correct a typographical error, by replacing “liquidg” with “liquid.”

No new matter has been added and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-22 will be all the claims pending in the application.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 9-14, 16 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Kawamura et al. (U.S. Patent 6,811,878 B2) (“Kawamura ‘878”). Further, claims 9-14, 16 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Kawamura et al. (U.S. Patent 6,566,029) (“Kawamura ‘029”).

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are novel over the cited references for at least the following reasons.

Kawamura ‘878 discloses that fine particles are bound to the graft surface and the inside of the graft by ionic interaction. Also, Kawamura ‘029, which relates to micro-capsule technology in a lithographic printing plate precursor, describes a fine-particulate polymer having reactive functional groups which may react with a graft polymer.

In contrast, in the present invention, the fine particles cause no interaction with a hydrophilic functional group of the graft polymer, and thus are different from Kawamura '878 and Kawamura '029.

Moreover, as described in the present specification, particles having an ionic interaction with the graft polymer hinder the movement of the fine particles that is led by convective assembly phenomenon (page 31, lines 9-12). The present invention provides a method for producing a thin film laminated with a single particle layer quickly with ease and in large areas (page 10, 2nd paragraph of the present specification).

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references, and thus the rejections should be withdrawn.

II. Conclusion

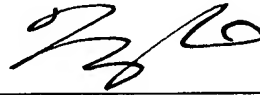
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 10/800,778

Attorney Docket Q80446

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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